



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service

Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/keywest>

ISSUED: 12:03 PM EDT FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011

FOURTH DRIEST COMBINED NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER AT KEY WEST THIRD DRIEST DECEMBER SINCE 1982 AT MARATHON

WARM AND DRY WEATHER PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND CHAIN DURING THE FINAL TWO MONTHS OF 2011. ONLY 0.40 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS MEASURED AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING DECEMBER. THIS AMOUNT WAS 1.82 INCHES BELOW NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. THIS WAS THE 25TH DRIEST DECEMBER AT KEY WEST SINCE PRECIPITATION RECORDS BEGAN IN 1871. THE DRIEST DECEMBER ON RECORD AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 2005, WHEN ONLY 0.05 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS MEASURED AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. KEY WEST EXPERIENCED A WARM AND VERY DRY END TO 2011, AS ONLY 0.57 INCHES WERE MEASURED DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. THIS WAS THE FOURTH DRIEST COMBINED NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN KEY WEST HISTORY. THE DRIEST COMBINED NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER ON RECORD AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 1956, WHEN 0.37 INCHES OF RAINFALL FELL.

AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT, ONLY 0.39 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS MEASURED DURING DECEMBER. THIS AMOUNT WAS 1.63 INCHES BELOW NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. THIS WAS THE THIRD DRIEST DECEMBER IN THE MIDDLE KEYS SINCE PRECIPITATION RECORDS BEGAN IN 1982. THE DRIEST DECEMBER ON RECORD AT MARATHON OCCURRED IN 2005, WHEN ONLY 0.13 INCHES OF RAINFALL FELL. 0.69 INCHES WERE MEASURED AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. THIS WAS DRIEST COMBINED NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER SINCE 1982 FOR THE MIDDLE KEYS. THE PRIOR DRIEST NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN THE MIDDLE KEYS OCCURRED IN 2005, WHEN 1.12 INCHES OF RAINFALL FELL.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS 73.9 DEGREES, WHICH WAS 2.5 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THIS WAS THE 16TH WARMEST DECEMBER SINCE TEMPERATURE RECORDS BEGAN AT KEY WEST IN 1872, AND THE WARMEST DECEMBER SINCE 2007. THE WARMEST DECEMBER ON RECORD AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 1931, WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE FINAL MONTH OF THE YEAR WAS 76.6 DEGREES.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT WAS 74.5 DEGREES, WHICH WAS 2.8 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THIS WAS THE FOURTH WARMEST DECEMBER FOR THE MIDDLE KEYS SINCE TEMPERATURE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1982. THE WARMEST DECEMBER ON RECORD AT MARATHON OCCURRED IN 2007, WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR DECEMBER WAS 76.2 DEGREES.

ANNUAL CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS

RAINFALL EXTREMES WERE MOST NOTEWORTHY DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2011 IN THE FLORIDA KEYS. FOLLOWING A COOL AND RELATIVELY WET START TO THE YEAR, AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS ENVELOPED THE FLORIDA KEYS FROM LATE JANUARY THROUGH JUNE. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL DROUGHT MONITOR, EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS HAD SPREAD INTO THE UPPER KEYS BY LATE MAY, WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE LONG-TERM DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN PLACE OVER THE REMAINDER OF THE ISLAND CHAIN DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE. ALTHOUGH NEAR NORMAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS RETURNED DURING JULY, KEY WEST AND MARATHON ENTERED THE PEAK MONTHS OF THE SUMMER WET SEASON WITH AN ANNUAL RAINFALL DEFICIT OF NEARLY 12 INCHES. THE SUMMER WET SEASON FINALLY PROVIDED SOME MUCH NEEDED HEAVY DOWNPOURS, AS KEY WEST EXPERIENCED ITS THIRD WETTEST AUGUST ON RECORD. HOWEVER, NEAR TO BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS CONTINUED THROUGH SEPTEMBER AT MARATHON, WHERE THE ANNUAL RAINFALL DEFICIT EXCEEDED 21.5 INCHES BY OCTOBER 1ST.

PROLIFIC RAINFALL TOTALS WERE MEASURED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND CHAIN DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. THE LARGEST TOTALS OCCURRED DURING A FIVE DAY SPAN FROM OCTOBER 15TH-19TH, AS A SUBTROPICAL LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM SLOWLY MOVED NORTHEASTWARD FROM MEXICO'S YUCATAN PENINSULA ACROSS THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO. 15.21 INCHES WAS RECORDED AT KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING THIS EVENT, WHICH WAS THE FIFTH WETTEST FIVE-DAY SPAN IN KEY WEST HISTORY. RAINFALL TOTALS NEAR 20 INCHES WERE MEASURED AT SEVERAL SITES IN THE LOWER KEYS. THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT MEASURED 20.34 INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING THE MONTH, WHICH REDUCED THE ANNUAL DEFICIT TO BELOW 6 INCHES BY NOVEMBER 1ST. KEY WEST RECORDED ITS FOURTH WETTEST OCTOBER ON RECORD SINCE 1871. A RAINFALL SURPLUS OF 12.21 INCHES DURING OCTOBER ENSURED THAT KEY WEST WOULD END THE YEAR WITH ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL TOTALS.

2011 WAS A WARM YEAR ACROSS THE ISLAND CHAIN. AVERAGE ANNUAL TEMPERATURES WERE ABOUT ONE DEGREE ABOVE NORMAL. THIS WAS THE 14TH WARMEST YEAR AT KEY WEST SINCE TEMPERATURE RECORDS BEGAN 1872. ABOVE AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURES

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR DECEMBER AND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN, WITH DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

DECEMBER RAINFALL TOTALS (INCHES)/2011 TOTAL/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Station – Station Type	December 2011	Dep. from Normal	2011 Annual Total	Dep. from Normal
-------------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.33	-2.16	35.36	-1.06
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	0.26	-1.96	41.02	+1.19
Key West International Airport – <i>Automated</i>	0.40	-1.82	42.67	+2.84
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.13		53.06	
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.79		53.03	
Cudjoe Key – <i>Citizen Observer</i>	0.82		44.13	
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP</i>	1.41	-0.56	42.20	-3.76
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>Automated</i>	0.39	-1.63	36.20	-9.97
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.19	-2.44	43.61	-3.32
Duck Key – <i>COOP</i>	0.25	-1.39	46.85	+4.84
Islamorada – <i>COOP</i>	0.35	-1.36	43.56	-5.45
Islamorada – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.46	-1.25	46.78	-2.23
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.72	-1.56	48.65	-5.91

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST LOCATIONS ARE THE 1981-2010 CLIMATIC AVERAGES FOR THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF AUTOMATED DATA.